

BODY LIFE

1 Thess. 5:12-14

A. Leadership. 1 Th 5:12 Acts 20:28; 1 Pet 5:1-5

1. Know them.

- Hard-Workers. **Labor** : toil with effort; exert strenuous effort resulting in weariness.

Willing to exert energy for Lord. Rom 16:12; 1 Cor 15:10; 1 Tim 4:10; 5:17

- Superintendents. **Over you** ... to stand before, preside, rule.

Chain of command in the Local church. Heb 13:17

- Reminders**and admonish you; put** in mind; caution or reprove, warn.

...and apparently always a sense of blame attached to it. Milligan

Nouthetic: confronts the will.

2. Respect Them **1 Th 5:13**

Esteem: Consider; regard with respect; prize; deference, approval, liking: high opinion of.

Very highly: Beyond normality; Go overboard.

Wiersbe: *Spiritual leadership is a great responsibility and a difficult task. It is not easy to serve as a pastor, elder, deacon, or other spiritual leader. The battles and burdens are many, and sometimes the encouragements are few. It is dangerous when a church family takes their leaders for granted and fails to pray for them, work with them, and encourage them.*

In love...

Wiersbe: *For a pastor to be "among" and "over" at the same time demands grace and power of the Spirit. If he gets out of balance, his ministry will be weakened and possibly destroyed.*

for their work's sake. Because of their work, ministry, position.

B. Body in General

Get Along. **1 Thess 5:13**

Peace: absence of dissension, criticizing, maligning. 1 Cor 3:1-3; Ja 4:1-3

C. Distinct Needs. **1 Th 5:14** We exhort **you, brethren.....** encourage ... sharpen

1. Unruly. Careless, out of line, disorderly, undisciplined, playing truant.

Soldier who insists on marching own way

Warn: sharp rebuke

2. Feeble-minded. ***Comfort the feeble-minded,***

Little-souled, faint-hearted. Quitters. Look on dark side...bail out when going tough

Comfort: encourage; get close & speak tenderly. Teach how to see bigger picture.

3. Weak. Sickly, without strength, morally vulnerable.

Spiritually immature – weak in faith.

Wiersbe: *Usually, the weak Christians were afraid of their liberty in Christ. They lived by rules and regulations. In the Roman assemblies, the weak Christians would not eat meat, and they held to the Jewish system of holy days. They were severe in their judgment of the mature saints who enjoyed all foods and all days."*

Support: Hold fast, not let go, hold out long before taking action. Show patient, reassuring love.

4. All men. ***Be patient toward all men.***

Show longsuffering toward all men.

Take long look

So what?

A. Leadership.

1. Do you know them?

Hard-Workers

Superintendents

Reminders

2. Do you respect them?

B. Body in General.

At peace with them?

C. Special Needs

1. Unruly-- *warn*

2. Feeble-minded--*comfort*

3. Weak-- *support*

4. All men--*patient*